

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-16 and 23-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 17-22 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 8 have been rewritten into independent claim format and tissue parts changed to valve leaflets for consistency with previously amended claim 1. Other claims also have been amended to change tissue part(s) to valve leaflet(s). In addition, "a" has been deleted before "shape memory" in claims 6 and 15 and a period has been provided at the end of claims 7 and 16. Claim 10 also has been amended to correct its claim dependency and to clarify that first and second needles and flexible members are being claimed. The amendment is believed not to introduce new matter.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's time and attention provided during an interview given today and gratefully acknowledges the indication that claim 9 is allowable and that claims 2 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten into independent format. The Examiner also requested that tissue part(s) be changed to valve leaflet(s) in accordance with the foregoing amendment.

**PROPOSED DRAWINGS CHANGES**

The undersigned requests approval of the proposed changes to FIGS. 1, 5, 6 and 7 attached hereto. Extraneous lines to be removed are circled or crossed-out in FIGS. 1, 5 and 7. FIG. 6 is revised to more clearly show the tapered portion of the assembly shown in FIG. 5. FIG. 7 also has been revised to more clearly show the coils and to conform needle 25 shown on the right side of the page with needle 25 shown on the left. The foregoing revisions are incorporated into the attached formal versions of FIGS. 1, 5, 6 and 7. Approval of the formal versions of FIGS. 1, 5, 6, and 7 is requested as well.

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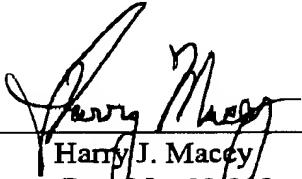
**CONCLUSION**

The undersigned believes that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due, including additional claims fees, in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-1947 referencing Attorney Docket No. CSI-2013.

Respectfully submitted,

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